

seniors. However, the Pantry of Broward is much more than a food bank. They also provide seniors with transportation services, legal assistance, access to affordable medical care, and a slew of other resources that make life just a little bit easier for Broward's struggling seniors.

Whether an individual needs help finding affordable housing, is having trouble understanding complicated medical or insurance forms, or simply needs a pair of eyeglasses fixed, the Pantry of Broward is there to help.

Seniors in south Florida, like those around the Nation, have worked hard and provided for themselves and others their entire lives, yet often, despite incredible need, they are too proud to ask for a helping hand. For this reason, the Pantry of Broward provides assistance in a caring, dignified manner, mindful of their clients' privacy and self-esteem.

Madam Speaker, while we in Congress work to revive our Nation's economy, it is organizations like the Pantry of Broward that serve as a lifeline to the seniors and families in our districts struggling to make it from one day to the next. I am truly grateful for the services they provide to my constituents and commend them on their extraordinary work.

CELEBRATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF SEATTLE'S DOWNTOWN
EMERGENCY SERVICE CENTER

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer special recognition to Seattle's Downtown Emergency Service Center, DESC, on its thirtieth anniversary. For three decades, this non-profit organization has committed itself to serve the most vulnerable homeless populations of Seattle with shelter, services, advocacy, and housing.

DESC began as a partnership among the City of Seattle, the Greater Seattle Council of Churches, and Washington Advocates for the Mentally Ill to address the shortage of shelter and services for a growing population of homeless persons in the Seattle area. On November 19, 1979, with fourteen staff, DESC opened its doors to nearly 200 homeless adults as an overnight emergency shelter in the ballroom of the Morrison Hotel, in Seattle's historic Pioneer Square. A year later, DESC became a Mental Health Care licensed agency. Since its early years, DESC has been a leader in developing programs that provide a full continuum of care to address the root causes of homelessness.

In 1985, DESC was selected as a pilot location for the national "Health Care for the Homeless" program to integrate chemical dependency, mental health, and nursing with shelter services. In 1989, DESC enhanced its local outreach program by sending clinically trained staff to the streets to seek out and establish first contact with Seattle's most vulnerable homeless men and women. That novel practice has become the standard outreach strategy used in most major U.S. cities today.

In addition, DESC began developing permanent supportive housing for the hardest-to-serve homeless men and women. In 1997, it opened the Lyon Building with 64 apartments

for homeless adults affected by HIV/AIDS, mental illness and/or addiction, implementing a "Harm Reduction" model. That same year, it also introduced the "Housing First" model to Seattle with the opening of the Kerner Scott House: 40 apartments for formerly homeless, mentally ill, and/or addiction-challenged adults. In 2005, DESC expanded its "Housing First" model with the opening of the 1811 Eastlake, a 75-unit building for late-stage chronic inebriates, typically high users of public services.

Over the years, DESC has received dozens of awards and widespread recognition for its innovative housing projects and intensive services. In 2004 and in 2005, it received the MetLife Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing, making it the only organization to win the award in two successive years. In 1999, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded its "Best Practice Award" to DESC for innovation in developing services that later became industry standards. Most recently, DESC won the 2007 Maxwell Award of Excellence for its 1811 Eastlake project. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2009 revealed that the 1811 Eastlake program has saved taxpayers \$4 million dollars annually.

Madam Speaker, for more than thirty years, DESC has served disabled and vulnerable homeless adults through a continuum of care model that not only helps people survive but breaks the vicious cycle of homelessness. Today, it has become one of the largest multi-service centers for homeless adults in the Pacific Northwest, employing more than 300 employees who provide permanent supportive housing, clinical and emergency services, and overnight shelter. DESC is an invaluable asset to our community, to the Seattle-King County Coalition to End Homelessness, and to our nationwide efforts to address homelessness. I extend my best wishes and commend DESC's Executive Director Bill Hobson, its Board of Directors, its staff, and its clients on "30 years of opening doors to end homelessness." I know DESC will continue to lead the way with thoughtful, innovative answers to our most challenging social issues.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF DEA SPECIAL AGENT FOR-
REST LEAMON OF DALE CITY,
VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the lives of three local men, who recently died in a tragic helicopter crash while serving with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in Afghanistan.

Their work was a critical part of recent U.S. efforts to disrupt drug trafficking that is believed to be funding Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan. These were the first DEA fatalities since the war began even though the agency has been operating in Afghanistan since 2005.

Special Agent Forrest Leamon was a resident of Woodbridge, Va., and had served in Afghanistan since 2007. Special Agent Chad Michael was a resident of Quantico, Va., and recently arrived in Afghanistan. Special Agent Michael Weston was a resident of Wash-

ington, D.C., and until recently served in the DEA's Richmond field office.

The crash also claimed the lives of seven U.S. service members.

During a memorial ceremony, Attorney General Eric Holder praised Special Agent Leamon as "always willing to accept tough assignments. When the opportunity came to volunteer—to volunteer—to work in Afghanistan, the most dangerous assignment available, he stepped up again."

Leamon was born in Ukiah, Calif., and would have celebrated his 38th birthday this Sunday. He is survived by his wife, Ana, and their soon-to-be born child; his parents, Richard and Sue Leamon, of Fortuna, Calif.; two sisters; a niece and two nephews; his grandmother; as well as aunts, uncles and cousins.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the lives and service of these brave men and extending our sympathies to their families.

HONORING WILSON HALLIDAY
PIPKIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Wilson Halliday Pipkin, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 96, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Wilson has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Wilson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Wilson Halliday Pipkin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING THE BIRTHDAY
OF PRESIDENT ZACHARY TAYLOR

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birthday of a great American president, Zachary Taylor.

Zachary Taylor was born on a farm in Barboursville, Virginia, on November 24, 1784. His father had served with George Washington in the Revolutionary War and his family members were prominent planters. Zachary Taylor had a 40-year military career in the U.S. Army, serving in the War of 1812, Black Hawk War, Second Seminole War, and the Mexican-American War, where he earned the nickname "Old Rough and Ready," because of his willingness to share his troops' hardships. Taylor became a national hero after facing overwhelming odds to triumph in a battle against the Mexican General Santa Anna at Buena Vista.